Pak Effort of Giving Insurgency In Kashmir A I'an-Tslamcic Character

1064. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will (he Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS he pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question No. 2743 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd December. 1993 and state :

(a) whether with the help of some of its friends in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Pakistan is trying to give the insurgency in Kashmir a pan islamic character and exira-territorial dimensions; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE TN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Pakistan is attempting to internationalise the Kashmir issue and to give it a religious bias.

(b) Government regard such attempts by Pakistan as propagandist and a distortion of facts apart from being violative of the Simla Agreement which calls for the resolution of all India-Pakistan issues peacefully through bilateral negotiation.

Equating Kashmir Situation With The Civil War In Afghnistan

1065. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether MS. Robin Raphel, head of the South Asia Bureau in the US State Department, in a major policy speech under the auspices of the Asia Socity's Washington Centre on 10th February, 1994 has equated the Kashmir situation with the civil war in Afghanistan ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) The US Official in a speech on February 9, 1994 mentioned cetain similarities between the situation in Afghanistan and J &K.

(b) In an Official Statement on February 11, 1994 Governmnet stated that no co - mparision can be made between the sit. uation in Afghanistan and Jammu & Kashmir. The situation in Afghanistan is a by-product of the Cold War whereas Jammu & Kashmir has been facing a massive campaign of terrorism aided and ahetted by Pakistan. The only link between Afghanistan and Jammu & Kashmir is that weapons and mercenaries have moved from both Afghanistan and Pakistan in support of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. Government also noted, *inter alia,* that repeated references lacking in balance and proper perspective regarding the situation in J & K by responsible US Administration officials tend to provide encouragement to Pakistan and terrorists sustained by them to continue with their violent activities.

Governemnt reiterated that the state of Jammu & Kashmir is an inalienable and integral part of the Indian Republic an. we will not brook any interference by any country in our internal affairs.

Pakistan Coming In the Way to Indian Membership to Asean and APEC

1066. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan factor is coming in the way of India securing the membership of both ASEAN and APEC which represent the fastest growing economics in the wolds: and

(b) if so, in what manner lndia propose to tackle this problem and gain entry in these bodies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) With a view to evolving close and cooperative relations with the ASEAN, India became a sectoral dialogue partner with that regional grouping of South-East Asain countries in 1992. This was before Pakistan was approved for sectoral partnership by ASEAN. The first substantive